

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)

845 PARK AVENUE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2005

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPECIAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date in the William A. Briggs Building Reed Conference Room with the following members present: Mr. Archetto (arrived at 6:28 p.m.), Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Votto.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(1) Personnel and PL 42-46-5(2) Contract and Litigation.

Mr. Lupino reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The roll was called.

Mr. Lupino stated that the committee would be reconvening into Executive Session following this special meeting and reopening to a public work session following the Executive Session.

NO. 05-7-15 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of certified employee A be accepted.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried to table Resolution No. 05-7-15.

Mr. Lupino noted that Chairman Palumbo was present at this meeting but had asked him to take over as Chair since he may be leaving the meeting.

I. SPEAKERS – Agenda Items

There were no speakers on agenda items.

Mrs. Ciarlo announced that it was her pleasure to recommend the transfer of Thomas Barbieri as Assistant Principal at Cranston High School West to the principalship of Bain Middle School. Tom has

been in the school system for more than thirteen years. He started off as a social studies teacher and worked at Project Phenix at Cranston West. He has taught special education at Bain Middle School. He has been a successful assistant principal at Cranston West, and he is eager and ready to take on the challenge to move Bain forward.

Mrs. Ciarlo further remarked that with Tom leaving Cranston High School West, this created a vacancy there. There is a young man who has been a successful mathematics teacher at Cranston High School and also did his internship at Cranston West, and then he was appointed assistant principal at Park View Middle School. This person is Sean Kelly. Sean's first love has been high school. He has done a superb job at the middle school, and while Melinda Thies is at this meeting to support Sean, she has mixed feelings losing Sean. Mrs. Ciarlo announced that she is re-assigning Sean Kelly to Cranston West as the assistant principal.

II. RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 05-7-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal, Western Hills Middle School, be approved.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this

Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was to appoint an Assistant Principal at Western Hills Middle School in addition to the Assistant Principal that is already there. Ms. Suzanne Coutu is still an Assistant Principal at Western Hills, and she is doing very well. It was Mrs. Ciarlo's pleasure to recommend Kim Magnelli to the position of assistant principal of Western Hills Middle School. She did her undergraduate work at Rhode Island College. She has her Masters in Education from Providence College. She is certified as a middle/secondary mathematics teacher, and she has her certificate as a middle/secondary principal. She is an excellent mathematics teacher. She has also been an intern, and when Melinda Thies was out for a while this past spring from Park View, Kim went to Park View to help Sean Kelly keep Park View moving. The district is very pleased to have people within the organization moving into administrative positions. She indicated to the committee that she is a quality individual, and she was happy to recommend Kim to them without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

Page 3 July 13, 2005

NO. 05-7-10 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the appointment of Program Supervisor of Nursing, be approved

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was the recommendation for a Program Supervisor for Nursing. It was her pleasure to recommend Deborah Svitil as the Program Supervisor for Nursing Services. Deborah has done a wonderful job with nursing services at both Arlington and Gladstone Schools, and there hasn't been much need for conversation because the issues have been addressed. The principal of Gladstone School was present to support Deborah. She has her BS degree from Rhode Island College and her Masters degree from Rhode Island College. She has been with Cranston Public Schools for sixteen years at various elementary schools but primarily she is known for her work at Gladstone and Arlington Schools. Everyone knows how important this position is given the times we live in. There is a large number of fragile children who attend Cranston schools, and it is important that the district has someone who will coordinate and keep the nurses on task and also give them a sense that everyone is in it together as a team. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that it was her pleasure to recommend Deborah Svitil to the committee without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-7-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2005-2006 school year.

Tracie Scotti, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, BA

Experience – Cranston Public Schools Student Teacher

Certification – Middle School Mathematics

Assignment – Park View Middle School, Mathematics, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 6, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note – 12311012 512100

Mark Cicerone, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, BA

Experience – Central Falls Student Teacher

Certification – Secondary English

Assignment – Park View Middle School, English, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 6, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12311012 512100

Kevin Ascoli, salary to be at the eighth step plus Masters in Social Work of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Springfield College, BS; New York University, MSW

Experience – Valley Community School

Certification – Social Worker

Assignment – Park View, Social Worker, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – September 6, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 15136113 511000

Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino noted the removal of Deanna Parrillo from the Agenda.

This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-7-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Jamal Safi Secondary History

Denise Petronelli Social Studies

Holly Bedrosian Elementary

David Gatta Secondary English

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-7-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as athletic coaches:

Gina Del Pozzo, Head Boys' Cross Country, Cranston High School West

Step – 3

Class – B

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Assistant Indoor/Outdoor Track Coach, Cranston

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Page 5 July 13, 2005

James Williamson, Head Boys' Soccer, Cranston High School West

Step – 2

Class – B

Playing Competition – North Kingstown/Rhode Island College

Experience – Assistant Coach, North Smithfield High School

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Michael Waterman, Assistant Boys' Soccer, Cranston High School West

Step – 2

Class – C

Playing Competition – High School

Experience – Head Coach Boys' Soccer, Bain Middle School

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Moses Saygbe, Head Boys' Soccer, Cranston High School East

Step – 2

Class – B

Playing Competition – Roger Williams College

Experience – Assistant Coach, Shea High School

Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-7-14 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Barbara Doorley, Teacher

Horton School

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Carol Leaver, Teacher

Cranston High School East

Effective Date: July 6, 2005

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

Page 6 July 13, 2005

NO. 05-7-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Mark McGetrick, Part-time Custodian

Plant

Effective Date of Employment - July 19, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 11247481 518200

Suzanne Pagano, Secretary

Gladstone School

Effective Date of Employment – August 19, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 11947115 515400

Shannon Cairo, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment – September 7, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Jane Notardonato, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment – September 7, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Paula Pelland, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment – September 7, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Matthew Fontaine, Summer Utility

Plant

Effective Date of Employment – July 5, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14747482 518200

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

Page 7 July 13, 2005

NO. 05-7-17 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Annette Brown, Three-hour Food Service

Food Service

Effective Date: June 17, 2005

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried to reconvene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law

42-46-5(1) personnel and RI State Law 42-46-5(2), contract and litigation. Any persons to be discussed have been so notified.

Mr. Lupino reconvened the public session at 7:42 p.m. All members of the committee were present. Mr. Archetto joined the public session at 6:28 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that the July 13, 2005 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

Mr. Lupino noted for the record that the personnel hearing that was conducted during Executive Session on this date had been adjourned to another point in time that is mutually agreeable to all parties involved.

Mr. Lupino convened the public work session at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Palumbo was not present for the public work session.

III. ADJOURN TO PUBLIC WORK SESSION

1. Proposed Amendments to School Committee Policies

Mr. Traficante stated that he had not served on nor did he know of a

governing body that did not have some sort of comprehensive rules and regulations that govern conduct, agenda, and decorum. This was the intent of the original resolution and the intent and objective of the sub-committee consisting of Ms. Iannazzi, Mrs. Greifer and himself. It took approximately three months for them to formulate this packet. They reviewed the policy books and discovered that many of the policies were outdated and that they were in dire need of being upgraded. Some of them date back to the 1970's and 1980's and early 1990's. It was their intent to update many of the outdated policies. They addressed some twenty-eight different policies in this comprehensive packet and

Page 8 July 13, 2005

parts of other policies as well. In many of them, a phrase or an entire paragraph was changed, and there were several additions. They compared samples with the General Assembly agendas, with City Councils, Town Councils, and also with School Committees. This sub-committee felt that they were presenting to the committee a comprehensive package that would suit the committee quite well for future meetings.

Mrs. Greifer stated that some of the policies were illegal with regard to the Open Meetings Laws. The changes were noted on the revised policies. Mr. Lupino noted that for some time the committee has been aware of the fact that the policy books need revising, but it is a major

undertaking and quite costly. The Rhode Island Association of School Committees has a computer program that the committee has not been able to buy into because they have not had the money to do it. The program would streamline their policies where it would interface the policies with any legal objections or cross-references. The initial cost was \$30,000 to \$35,000 with a maintenance fee on top of that figure. This figure went back several years, and he was sure that the fee was substantially increased since that time. This may be considered for some future time.

Mrs. Greifer referred to her earlier statement regarding some of the policies being illegal, and she explained that they were being brought up to date because of changes in the Open Meeting laws. They are being updated to current terminology and to what is compliant with the laws.

A very lengthy discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes. Any changes to be reflected from this discussion would be included in the proposed changes that would be brought before the committee at their July 18, 2005 meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Stycos and unanimously carried that the work session be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the work session, it was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Lupino
Clerk